



217/782-3397

January 7, 1986

Mr. John A. Annerino, Chairman  
Will County Board  
Will County Office Building  
302 North Chicago Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Dear Mr. Annerino:

For the following reasons we believe that landfill core borings at the Lemont Land and Lakes refuse disposal site would be of minimal value.

- 1) All sanitary landfills accept some quantity of hazardous waste in normal household refuse. The IEPA would expect to find some levels of hazardous constituents in the core samples.
- 2) Based on an assessment of the monitoring well data there appears to be no leakage into the groundwater. Also the groundwater monitoring system required by the permit is adequate to detect contaminants which might be leaving the site.
- 3) It is not environmentally sound to drill holes into the final cover over a landfill or into the daily cover within the site. The cover serves to retard infiltration of precipitation and to control fire and rodents. Of prime importance is the control of liquids at the landfill and the prevention of their migration into the groundwater.
- 4) The real issue should not be whether a landfill core boring would contain a certain type of waste, but whether the drinking water of the area is contaminated. An Agency review of groundwater data would indicate that there has been no harmful impact on the drinking water at this time.
- 5) All the allegations of illegal hazardous waste disposal at the site have been non-specific in nature. No one has positively confirmed that they know of hazardous waste being deposited at the landfill. Drilling under these situations will, at best, be a search for a needle in a haystack.

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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The Agency also has a concern for the safety of drill rig personnel while drilling in waste disposal cells. These concerns notwithstanding, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will formally request drill rig access to the Land and Lakes Landfill for the purpose of taking refuse borings. Should Mr. Cowhey's response be positive, the Agency will proceed with the landfill core borings. Should the response be negative, the Agency may consider other remedies.

The Agency will commit to a complete sampling of the facility as time and weather allows. Also the Agency is pursuing the addition of two state-of-the-art stainless steel monitoring wells to enhance the monitoring of the groundwater at the site.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Carlson  
Director

RJC:BCC:mg/50

cc: State Rep. Jack Davis  
State Rep. Dennis Hastert  
Mr. Strobbe, Mayor Romeoville  
Mr. Nelson, Mayor Lemont  
Mr. Bracken Lemont Trustee  
Mr. Bolattion, Mayor Lockport  
Mr. Bailey, Mayor Bolingbrook  
Rev. Glen Bergmark, Lemont Env. Comm.  
Bill Sullivan, Attorney General's Office  
Cindy Akin, Romeoville  
Richard Carlson, IEPA  
Delbert Haschemeyer, IEPA  
Robert Kuykendall, IEPA  
Bernard Killian, IEPA  
Roger Kanerva, IEPA  
Ken Bechely, IEPA-Maywood ✓  
Glenn Savage, IEPA  
Sherrilyn Otto, IEPA